

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATIC CONFIGURATION OF A CLUSTER OF COMPUTERS

ABSTRACT

One embodiment of the present invention provides a system that facilitates configuring the network interfaces coupling together a group of computers. The system operates by receiving a request at a computer to configure the group of computers into a cluster of computers that function in concert as a single unit. Next, the system establishes whether each network interface within the computer is private or public, wherein a private network interface is used for intercommunications within the cluster of computers and a public network interface is used for communications with client computers. Using the private interconnects, the system determines the connectivity among the plurality of computers. Next, the system calculates a configuration for the cluster of computers. This configuration is presented to an administrator, which allows the administrator to edit the configuration to establish a more desirable configuration. Finally, the cluster of computers is installed using the configuration.